

# REGIONAL PARKS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT



September 23, 1999

CALFED Bay-Delta Program  
Attn: Rick Breitenbach  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: CALFED Bay-Delta Program draft Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Breitenbach:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Beverly Lane*  
President  
Ward 6

*Carol Severin*  
Vice-President  
Ward 3

*John Sutter*  
Treasurer  
Ward 2

*Ayn Wieskamp*  
Secretary  
Ward 5

*Ted Radke*  
Ward 7

*Doug Siden*  
Ward 4

*Jean Siri*  
Ward 1

*Pat O'Brien*  
General Manager

We have reviewed the CALFED Bay-Delta Program draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report, dated June 1999, along with the accompanying technical appendices. Since this Programmatic EIS/EIR does not address specific projects, we are unable to assess the potential impacts this Program will have on Park District lands and recreational opportunities as envisioned in our Master Plan, and therefore, we are unable to make specific comments at this time.

This Program currently defers decisions on major controversial aspects that have the potential to adversely affect District interests, such as the potential Los Vaqueros expansion, possible loss of delta recreational opportunities, and likely loss of open space acquisitions opportunities. Any future EIS/EIR needs to address existing and potential recreational opportunities that will be impacted by proposed program solutions, and more specifically address potential impacts of the solutions under discussion before adequate public comment can be made.

We have enclosed an East Bay Regional Park District Board Resolution, dated September 21, 1999, which expresses our concern with the CALFED Bay-Delta Program process. We look forward to subsequent environmental review which will be required for the project-specific actions involved in implementing the program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Brad Olson'.

Brad Olson  
Environmental Specialist  
SJC



## EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 1999-09- 216

September 21, 1999

POSITION STATEMENT REGARDING CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the health of the San Francisco Bay-Delta estuary and the diverse ecosystems it supports are fundamental to the environmental well being of the entire Bay Area; and

WHEREAS, much of the Bay Area's economic vitality is supported by the Bay-Delta estuary, including industries such as tourism, recreational activities, and commercial fishing; and

WHEREAS, the Bay-Delta estuary's health is in rapid decline, manifested by various indicators including dramatic reductions in fish populations, and due to a variety of devastating impacts, including the diversion of over 50 percent of its flows from the watershed's rivers, the loss of over 85 percent of historic wetlands, and the discharge of 40,000 tons of pollutants into the Bay; and

WHEREAS, since 1995, the Federal Government and the State of California, in conjunction with agricultural, urban, and environmental stakeholders, have undertaken an effort to address the remarkably complex water resource issues of the Bay-Delta ecosystem through a process known as CALFED; and

WHEREAS, in the CALFED process, the current public comment period for the Draft Programmatic EIR/EIS provides a critical opportunity for input on the issues affecting the San Francisco Bay-Delta estuary.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the East Bay Regional Park District does hereby identify that the following essential elements must be incorporated into future policies and programs undertaken by the CALFED process:

- A guarantee that there will be adequate fresh-water flows into the Bay - The San Francisco Bay-Delta estuary's historic fresh-water flows have been reduced by half. Currently, there exists a need for science-based standards that establish minimum flows of fresh water into the Bay. Adequate flows will benefit the entire estuary in diverse ways, including improving water quality, supporting biological diversity and the health of all of the Bay-Delta estuary's ecosystems.
- Water conservation by all users - Equitable water conservation practices must be required and enforced for all users throughout California. Managing demand through conservation practices and greater water use efficiency can eliminate or substantially reduce the need to construct new storage facilities. Until conservation practices and demand management have been implemented and monitored, the construction of new storage facilities, or enlargement of existing ones, should not be initiated.

- A fair share of funding for Bay Area environmental restoration efforts - The EPA's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), BCDC's San Francisco Bay Plan, and the RWQCB's Bay Basin Plan, all establish numerous beneficial measures that must be taken to protect and restore habitat and improve fish and wildlife in the Bay-Delta estuary. Of the most recent funding package, only 5% came to projects in the region. Funding to implement these recommended programs must be brought up to the levels that are appropriately proportional to budgets for environmental restoration in other parts of the State.

- Recreational opportunities considered - Increased populations and urbanization in the Bay-Delta area is putting increasing pressure on existing land and water-based recreational opportunities. Recreational demand in urbanizing areas surrounding the Bay-Delta continues to overburden recreational providers. Water-related recreation, including camping, boating, swimming, fishing and trail use are all critical issues for any Bay-Delta/urban interface planning efforts. CALFED should provide for improved recreational use and Delta access as part of any significant Delta fix.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Manager is hereby authorized and directed, on behalf of the District and in its name, to execute and deliver such documents and to do such acts as may be deemed necessary or appropriate to accomplish the intentions of this resolution.

Moved by Director Radke, seconded by Director Siden and adopted this 21st day of September, 1999, by the following vote:

FOR: Directors Beverly Lane, Ted Radke, Carol Severin, Douglas Siden, Jean Siri, John Sutter

AGAINST: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Director Ayn Wieskamp

CERTIFICATION

I, Debra Fassler, Clerk of the Board of Directors of the East Bay Regional Park District, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of Resolution 1999-9-216 and adopted by the Board of Directors at a regular meeting held on September 21, 1999

Debra Fassler